

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, April 21, 2015**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Member (telephonically)

Absent: Patrick G. Call, Chairman

Staff Present: Michael J. Ortega, County Administrator
Jim Vlahovich, Deputy County Administrator
Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board
Lois Klein, Finance Director
Michael McGinnis, Budget Manager
Nike Noack, Financial Services Manager

Vice-Chairman English called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of County budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 specifically: the Judicial Branch (Adult Probation, Clerk of the Superior Court, Juvenile Court Services, Justice of the Peace 1-6, Court Administration) budget.

Mr. Ortega stated that each department would give an update of their budget status and give an explanation of any budget requests.

Judge Adam Ambrose, Justice of the Peace (JP) #1, said that things were going well in his court and asked to make a part time position full time that would be funded by the court enhancement funds.

Mr. Ortega noted that the court enhancement funds could cover all requests made by the

courts.

Judge James Conlogue, Superior Court Presiding Judge, emphasized that the courts are not in the business of producing revenue, they are in charge of enforcing court orders. He added that he would be willing to vacate a bailiff position in order to make the clerk in JP 1 full time.

Vice-Chairman English asked if this trade would cause a burden for Judge Conlogue's court.

Judge Conlogue said that coverage would be adequate without the bailiff position and added that although some of the staffing changes were temporary his staff was looking for ways to solve issues permanently.

Judge Timothy Dickerson, Justice of the Peace #5 and Presiding Justice of the Peace Judge, spoke on behalf of Judge Alma Vildosola, Justice of the Peace #2, and said she did not have any general fund requests, but asked that her court enhancement fund requests continue for the next fiscal year.

Supervisor Searle asked about the collection process and if any options had been explored to address this service.

Mr. Ortega said he would work with Judge Conlogue to research some options that were viable and long term.

Judge Bruce Staggs, Justice of the Peace #3, said his court was in good fiscal condition due to good leadership and conservative staff decisions regarding the budget. He had no additional requests.

Judge Trevor Ward, Justice of the Peace #4, said he had no additional requests and was keeping the budget the same as the previous year.

Judge Dickerson, requested a hearing headset for citizens hard of hearing, \$2,000 for travel and training, and the reoccurring items from the previous year. He added that he was establishing several specialized courts that would be modeled after the veterans court to address specific issues and get residents through the system in a more organized manner. He thanked Mr. Ed Gilligan, Adult Probation/Juvenile Court Services Director, for his assistance in creating the recovery court.

Judge Michael Skiles, Justice of the Peace #6, said he was not asking for any additional changes and requested that his court enhancement funding continue for the next year.

Mr. Ortega thanked the Judges for their updates and said staff was working on court consolidation agreements with the cities, but the difficulty was that the actual costs are greater than what the cities have been paying and that is something we have to discuss with each city so they can plan on whether they want to keep their partnership with the County.

Judge Skiles said that there were changes in traffic laws that would affect traffic courts and impact revenues.

Mr. Ortega said that in total the Justice Courts would be down \$117,000 in revenue for fiscal year 2015/2016.

Mr. Eric Silverberg, Court Administrator, gave an update on Court Administration and said that their budget had an increase in cost for court reporters.

Ms. Lois Klein, Finance Director, stated that the increase in cost for the court reporters would

be a \$98,000 increase to the general fund.

Judge Conlogue said that they would look at processes in order to address this increase, but clarified that he did not want this cost to impact the employees' pay plan.

Mr. Ortega said that he would also be looking at the funding for the law library and would recommend that the Board reduce the Library Districts contribution by \$75,000.

Mr. Silverberg said that he would want to discuss this cut to the law library since it is a constitutional requirement to provide this service for inmates.

Mr. Ortega said that he would be willing to discuss, but noted that the Library District budget is of concern so reductions have to be made to any services that district is funding.

Vice-Chairman English reminded everyone that the County had to be looked at as a whole and staff was looking at every revenue source, every service, and every expenditure.

Ms. Mary Ellen Dunlap, Clerk of the Superior Court, said she was requesting making a part time position permanent.

Vice-Chairman English asked Ms. Dunlap to look at her staff as a whole and consider cross training and job sharing.

Ms. Dunlap said her staff had already looked at those suggestions and added that she was also requesting \$13,440 for scanners to assist in processing court documents.

Mr. Ortega said that he would look at the decision package for the scanners, but did not think it was possible at this time to make the part time position permanent.

Ms. Patricia Muñoz, Adult Probation/Juvenile Court Services Deputy Director, said that both probation departments are in good shape and they continue to look for ways to integrate both department functions to create a more streamlined process in the County's probation system. She said they were not making requests at this time and were keeping their budget the same as the previous year.

Mr. Ortega thanked staff for the updates.

The Board said they looked forward to the continued partnership with the County's judicial branch.

Vice-Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

